

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. During April 1948, the Thuringian Border Police underwent considerable changes of personnel and was reinforced by Russian troops. Along the Thuringian-Hessian border, approximately twenty Russians accompanied about fifty German policemen along two-kilometer stretches, the Germans patrolling the area and the Russians remaining at stationary posts. In addition, areas five kilometers or more from the border were patrolled by Thuringian criminal police acting as supplementary border guards. Russian troops have red piping on their caps, NCOs green piping.
2. Beginning about the middle of April, detachments of municipal police personnel aged 25 to 35, from Gotha, Weimar, Erfurt, Jena, Gera, and Saalfeld, were ordered out for service with the border police. Although they were told that the service would be temporary, indications appear that the transfer will be permanent.
3. Russian NCOs in charge of an area usually maintain discipline. Punishments are severe and beatings are frequent. As much as ten days imprisonment is ordered for neglect of duty. Attempts to resign from the force are countered by threats of forced labor in the mines at Aus and Niederschlema.
4. Captured illegal border crossers are taken to a camp at Frauensee near Bad Salzungen for interrogation, usually charged with being American spies.
5. Charisius, former police director of Gera, is in charge of the Thuringian Border Police. He was a major in the German Luftwaffe and received the Ritterkreuz.

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